

IMPORTANT FROM WASHINGTON.

Interesting Debates in Both Houses on Congress on the Slavery Question.

Haskin and Hickman Define their Positions.

The Wonderful Influence of the Herald in Public Affairs.

Probable Election of a Speaker on the Next Ballot.

The Vacant District Attorneyship in New York.

Our Special Washington Despatch.

THE SPEAKERSHIP AND THE CLEVERNESS.

Haskin and Hickman's speeches to-day are received as an indication of the sentiment of at least five of the anti-slavery democrats, namely—Haskin, Hickman, Lewis, Reynolds and Clark, and I am authoritatively informed that they can be depended upon to vote for Mr. Sherman when the time will come, and I have good reason to believe that when actually needed, Davis, Maryland, and Adams, of New Jersey, will also vote for Sherman. This being the fact, Sherman will be elected on the next ballot, he only wanting one hundred and sixteen votes. The above calculation gives him one hundred and seventeen votes, without his own.

The speeches of Haskin and Hickman created a sensation in the galleries, overflowing on the floor, such as has not been manifested during the present discussion. The speech exhibited by Hickman was approved by the most chivalrous of the Southerners.

The Republicans are very anxious that they will elect Sherman on the next ballot by a majority, and that the House will reach a ballot to-morrow. If so there will be a sharp contest over the Clerkship, as Forney will be the principal candidate, especially if the anti-slavery vote for Sherman, as they now indicate they will do.

The opposition to Forney will come chiefly from the Republicans in the West, who entertain a hostile feeling towards Douglas. It is considered as settled that Forney will not support Douglas if the latter should be nominated at Charleston on any other platform than that of equal sovereignty, which Forney himself has no faith will be adopted. Any intimation that the Republicans will not stick to Sherman, after the abuse and misrepresentation he has received from the Democrats, is a mistake. They say they will never desert him.

The programme, as telegraphed to the Herald yesterday, as being discussed, with regard to Mr. Reagan, of Texas, or Mr. Davis, of Indiana, for Speaker is still being actively carried on. Mr. Reagan seems to be most favored, though, there is talk to give Davis would appear to be the most acceptable.

With the view of meeting the Democrats, Southern opponents, and anti-slavery Democrats on a candidate acceptable to them all, the name of Mr. McClelland, of Illinois, has to-day been proposed by some of the members in connection with the Speakership. Nobody, however, seems to anticipate an election during the present week.

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Parties are already at work looking up testimony for the Senate investigating committee which will be appointed under Mr. Mason's resolution concerning Brown's capture at the arsenal at Harper's Ferry. They have ascertained that the rifles were paid for in 1857 by a note signed S. C. Howe, and endorsed by Amos Lawrence. They were sent to Kansas to be used there by the settlers to protect themselves, and were transported to Harper's Ferry upon Brown's own responsibility.

THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEES.

The democratic Senators met in caucus at the Capitol at ten o'clock this morning, to receive the report of the subcommittee appointed by the caucus last Friday, for the organization of Senate committees for the Congress. The committee was made to constitute the committees such as they were made last March, at the end of the Thirty-third Congress, when the new Senators took their seats. This was objected to by several Northern Senators, on the ground that the control of all or nearly all of the committees was in the hands of Southern gentlemen. The Committee on Post Office and Post Roads was especially mentioned as having a Southern chairman (Mr. Yulee), who is the brother-in-law of Postmaster General Holt. No objection was made on the character or official conduct of these gentlemen, but it was contended it would be better to have another chairman, and in view of so many committees being controlled by Southern Senators, to have a Northern chairman. In consequence of this difficulty the matter remains in abeyance for the present.

The financing committees in Senate will not be organized for some days yet, owing to the absence of a number of democratic Senators. The chairmanship of leading committees will be the same as last year, namely, Mr. Pugh, of Ohio, Chairman of the Committee on Pensions; Mr. Toombs, Chairman of the Committee on Revolutionary Claims; Mr. Yulee, the same as last year, will be Chairman of the Committee on Post Office and Post Roads, notwithstanding the efforts of certain gentlemen connected with steamship lines to keep him off; General Lane takes Mr. Redfield